

MH: Assistive Technology**FY2024 Request:****\$500,000****Reference No:****64732****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Sylvan Robb**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028**Contact Phone:** (907)465-1630**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This capital program will provide funding for high-technology and low-technology assistive devices for Alaskans experiencing disabilities in order to ensure vulnerable Alaskans have a safe living environment.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1037 GF/MH	\$500,000						\$500,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

☐ State Match Required
 ☐ One-Time Project
 ☐ Phased - new
 ☐ Phased - underway
 ☐ Ongoing
 0% = Minimum State Match % Required
 ☐ Amendment
 ☒ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec5 Ch12 SLA2022 P15 L15 HB282 \$500,000

Sec4 Ch2 SLA2020 P11 L10 HB206 \$500,000

Sec7 Ch1 SLA2019 P14 L10 SB2002 \$500,000

Sec5 Ch16 SLA2012 P13 L14 HB285 \$125,000

Project Description/Justification:

Individuals with disabilities often require assistive technology devices in order to live independently, perform well in school, and maintain employment. They are also more likely to live in poverty and lack resources to investigate and purchase these sorts of devices.

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) reports that 90 percent of children and adolescents use computers as part of their education process and over half of employed people use computers in their work. Access to specialized equipment is important to educational and employment success for people experiencing disabilities. Assistive technology is also very important to individuals seeking to achieve the highest level of independence possible.

Assistive technology devices include but are not limited to:

- augmented and alternative devices (e.g., picture charts, book, and specialized computers);
- computer software and devices to assist with education, employment, or environment needs;
- and

- appliances and tools to aid daily living, ranging from simple devices to control lighting to complex systems like chin controls and controls governed by eye movements.

Assistive Technology of Alaska is the primary provider of assistive technology consultations, counseling, and products.